

get my chtl. made at the same time and place.

V Keenle, M<sup>o</sup>. March. 22<sup>d</sup>. 1857.

Dear Booth.

I had heard of his romance previous to receiving your last letter in which allusion is made to its publication; but notwithstanding my great curiosity to see it, I was not gratified until last night, when Father came up & brought with him a copy, which by the kindness of a friend he has the loan of until his return on Tuesday. I therefore cannot send it to you for now, a day & must instead give you an idea of its contents. As Father could not obtain a copy, even from McLulloch & Co, the work must have had a prosperous run to exhaust the edition so soon & you had better recommend a reprint to your friend Hart, as a good speculation. There is no copy right, but it bears the imprint of Geo. J. Robinson. Princeton. N. J. 1857, and is of the cheap literature style.

The work opens with an invocation to the Gods at the Capitol in Wash<sup>g</sup> and sets forth that; — he is the author of "Sugar and Hydrometers" for the use of the Customs and that while engaged upon investigations relative to those subjects, he was called, without solicitation by himself or immediate friends to the U. S. Mint; — while there the necessity arose for certain improvements in his Dept which he suggested to but failed in having ~~the~~ sanctioned by the Director until after much delay & reluctance on the part of the latter, although they would and ~~had~~ increase the refining capacity of the Mint from \$100,000 to \$1,500,000 per month; — the influx of California gold led him to think of devising still greater facilities & ~~while~~ while experimenting to this end he was elected to the Chair of Natl. Philos in Princeton College, where he afterwards completed the assays which resulted in his patent method. This much, by way of proving himself a great man, having been written, he then goes on to give a garbled history of the whole affair commencing from the time that you acknowledged yourself "John Jones" <sup>& continuing</sup> to the ~~affair and ending with the~~ report of the Director of the Mint and that of yours from you, accompanying it. It is full of misrepresentations.



lations presented in the most specious manner, but still, to those who look beneath the surface of things in forming their estimate, it will appear to be what it really is, a special plea written to support an untenable position which is attempted to be maintained regardless of the interest <sup>rights</sup> feelings of all others but himself. There is nothing in it to excite anger and the only motions which it has created in me are those of pity & contempt for the weakness & folly of the author of it. To a <sup>disinterested</sup> reader his letters will bear a very unfavorable contrast with ours, <sup>and notwithstanding</sup> his departure from truth in several instances we have nothing to dread from the avalanche of wrath which will pass over our heads & leave us unharmed. The only regret I have in the matter is that the bad conduct of the man has been the cause of losing me a friend, for I had heretofore always liked M. C. But to resume, he continues the thread of his narrative up to the time of our being in Washington together when he states that Father & I by way of forcing him into a compromise, threatened opposition & confiscation. Now this is a downright falsehood. The eagerness for union was all on the other side and the procrastination of it was only delayed at the time by our obstinacy <sup>to</sup> consent except upon certain conditions as to the form of the amendment before the Senate. The reluctance to concede those on their part & Father's determination not to recede from his stand were the cause of some very violent remarks by M. C. Sr. in his own room whether we had been united for the purpose of consultation by the other party. On this fit of anger M. C. Sr. threatened if we did not unite, to give the whole situation to the Public, gratuitously, rather than to compete with us.

He also speaks of your having told him of the hostility of the officers of the Mint towards them. Alludes to the inconsistency of your statements with regard to your experiments & to your failures. Attributes them to mismanagement & brings forward a letter from Bourgeois of the New Orleans Mint who has repined & bemoaned repeatedly and successfully by his process. He however says nothing about the loss.

He then goes on to say that he has no confidence that a fair trial of either invention will be made in the Mint by Prof. Beeth alone; that his process has been mismanaged; that your process

is imperfect & has proved a failure under your own management, as admitted by me (Cm) in a personal interview. Now this is another falsehood. I never admitted any thing to him. I was particularly cautious in speaking with him because I knew the man & in what I did say conveyed the impression that the difficulties in your process had all been surmounted & that there in his was then the only cause of delay. The most of the interview was consumed in a gossamer invective against Gallatin & Peale in which ~~you~~ there are several indirect shots at you, which I fended off obstinately.

The petition concludes with the assertion that the mutant assignment has in all probability been without valuable consideration on our part & therefore he "prays legislation for an equitable contract with him," <sup>and</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>if</sup> there is reason to believe, your process should be found destitute of value and efficiency.

The work is enriched with a copious appendix comprising letters to & from J. C. Roeth, J. W. McCulloch, H. M. & C. Wright, and a plume or two in the form of communication & complaints to the Secy of Treas & to the Pres of the U. S. The whole winds up with a grand melo-dramatic finale in which Gallatin & Peale are marched before the public ~~and~~ adorned in all the paraphernalia of medal makers.

If you should conclude to do any thing in relation to it beside laughing at it, I hope you will first counsel with Father; for after all our doubts he was right in his estimate of the man and acted his part judiciously though we disagreed with him at the time. How would it do to end the controversy by proposing a re-assignment of the motives. The purpose of the act has been accomplished — that of obtaining a law for the purchase of the <sup>patents</sup> — and no injury will come to us if you have satisfied yourself that your plan is a feasible one. We should you have hereafter, to report favorably also upon M. C. Sr. The Doctor would then have to recommend the purchase of both and of course the consideration money would have to be divided between the two parties. This is merely a suggestion to you who know more about the chances of success than I do and is solely for your consideration, to be carried out only by the consent of your legal counsel.



March 22, 1831  
C. Moffet  
Pikesville

I wish if you are in the neighbourhood of Homer's you would see if his spring supply of bows has arrived. He expected them when I was last in Phil<sup>a</sup> & said he would have "superior article for \$5.66. Please select one large size for a lady, of handsome finish and buy it with a dozen good arrows. I want it for myself, but am not strong enough in the arms to pull a large size bow.

I will send you the money when you tell me the cost. You will also receive your pay about the first, or as soon as the Captain returns. He has not answered my letter yet. I should have told you that it was only for part of the time that he made a deduction, but as this is the second time & may lead to a habit, the practice must be reformed ~~at~~ in its beginning.

With friendly regards to your mother & self.

Yours truly

Campbell Moffet.

Monday March 24.

I have just recd yours of the 22<sup>d</sup>. I have not heard from the Captain yet. I have, on reflection, concluded not to urge the objection to deductions if he resists, because my future prospects depend too much on my remaining in this vicinity to the end of the year, I can afford to "suffer" a little while for the present when it will lead to the means of making me strong hereafter. I shall only relax my efforts & work less diligently without announcing however my intention to do so. As for allowing you to share any of the loss, I should scorn any such act & regret that you harboured the idea of my being willing to do so. It is enough that you should lose your per diem by my absence without sharing any of my loss. You will not receive your travelling fees until the completion of the exp<sup>ts</sup> when they will all be paid in a lump. If you see Capt on his return, do not mention that I have written you on the subject - let us settle it together. Receive my thanks for the Green Sand &c. Ask Huxton if he inquired about the shell patterns - I want a Lichy shell but don't wish to be at the expense of patterns. Do you intend to borrow Wells - if so I'll pay/